

Nearly 200 years ago, certain individuals decided to leave the John Street Methodist Church in New York because of discrimination and denial of religious liberties. These individuals organized what was to become the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Zion was added to their name in 1848 to distinguish this denomination from other African Methodist bodies. The Right Reverend George E. Battle, Jr., bishop of the Pee Dee Conference, has declared a week of celebration for the week of October 1–8, 1995, to commemorate the founding of their denomination.

I congratulate the many churches of the Pee Dee Conference as they celebrate their 200th anniversary and commend them for having kept the faith, and morally and spiritually nourished individuals and families within their congregations, and for having been vital forces in their communities. I extend to the Pee Dee Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church my best wishes for their next century of service.

A TRIBUTE TO COL. CHRISTOPHER RUSSO

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MATSUI and I rise today to pay tribute to Col. Christopher F. Russo, who is retiring his command of the 77th Air Base Wing, Sacramento Air Logistics Center, McClellan Air Force Base, CA.

Colonel Russo graduated from Syracuse University in 1965. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps programs that fall, and received his pilot wings from Moody Air Force Base, GA the following year.

Colonel Russo was deployed to Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, in Vietnam. After his combat tour, he was an instructor at Vance Air Force Base, OK. In 1972, he was assigned to Nellis Air Force Base, NV, for his training in the F–111A, and then deployed to Takhli Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, where he completed another combat tour. During his tour at Takhli, he became the first aircraft commander to complete 100 combat missions in the F–111, a record he still holds.

Colonel Russo is a command pilot with more than 4,500 hours flying time. He has flown 250 combat missions, with over 500 hours of combat and combat support time. His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal, Republic of Korea Gallantry Cross, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with seven oak leaf clusters, and the Combat Readiness Medal. He holds a master's degree in the International Relations from Troy State University, AL, and is an outstanding graduate of the Air War College seminar program.

Mr. Speaker, we join his wife Pam and his children, Kristen, Jodie, and Nicholas, in wishing Colonel Russo a happy and productive retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BEATRIZ VALDEZ ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great public servant. Please join me in honoring Beatriz Valdez, who has earned the gratitude of the citizens of Los Angeles County for her tireless commitment to good government.

Beatriz Valdez, the eldest of eight children to Maria Del Rosario and Miguel Valdez, graduated from Montebello High School and immediately obtained employment with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Following the principles of punctuality and hard work, she quickly rose from the ranks of secretarial to administrative duties.

Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 1957, Ms. Valdez began working for the county's Registrar-Recorders office. In 1975, Ms. Valdez was appointed to the position of Assistant Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk of the Elections Office and was responsible for the election functions of the department. Her duties included the nomination process, formatting the ballot, processing absentee voters and campaign statements, the official canvass, analyses of legislative proposals and public information functions. In 1984, she also was assigned to oversee the county's 3.6 million voter affidavit file and the processing of an initiative, referendum, recall and nominating petitions.

On March 31, 1993, Beatriz Valdez was sworn in as Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and assumed the position as head of the largest election agency in the United States. She is the first Hispanic-American to hold this position since Ignacio Del Valle in 1850. She is responsible for conducting elections within L.A. County for Federal, State, and local offices, maintenance of an active voter registration program which includes a registration file of over 3.6 million and 4,000 voter outreach locations.

Each year the department provides support services for over 200 school, city and special district elections. Each major election requires the processing of approximately 275,000 voter registration forms, 500,000 absent voter requests, staffing over 6,100 precincts and processing over 500,000 petition signatures. Beyond her electoral duties, she is responsible for the recording of property documents within L.A. County, maintaining birth, death and marriage records, issuing marriage licenses and filing fictitious business names. Beatriz Valdez directs the annual budget of \$60 million, the collection of \$70 million in revenue and staff resources of 700 permanent employees.

Mr. Speaker, Beatriz Valdez is an extraordinary woman who I am proud to count as my constituent. The city of Montebello, the State and the Nation owe her a debt of gratitude. My colleagues in the House of Representatives salute her and wish her well in retirement.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF THE MAJORITY WHIP TOM DELAY

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of the Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996, Messrs. ISTOOK, MCINTOSH, and EHRLICH offered very important legislation regarding political advocacy. The amendment was included in the committee reported version of the bill. The legislative measure was successfully defended on the House floor. The amendment to strike the provision by Mr. SKAGGS of Colorado was defeated with 232 Members voting against the amendment to strike.

In my statement I referred to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. I stated that organizations from all sides of the political spectrum from Act-Up on the left to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have taken Federal funds and have lobbied for more Federal funds.

It is now my understanding that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce does not receive Federal funds in any capacity that could be used for lobbying purposes.

In no way was it my intention to paint a picture of the U.S. Chamber taking funds for lobbying purposes. Quite the contrary is true. The U.S. Chamber has played an integral role in the revolution that has and continues to take place here in Congress. They have been advocates of the Contract With America and many other important pieces of legislation. Without their support, I am sure that many of the victories we have experienced during the first 8 months of this session would not be a reality. I want to commend the U.S. Chamber for all their hard work and effort and express gratitude for their guidance.

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

HON. BARBARA ROSE COLLINS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Miss COLLINS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased today to pay tribute to women around the world, from Africa to China, from America to South America, who recently attended the women's conference in Beijing. I want to pay special tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Maryann Mahaffey, president of the Detroit City Council, and one of the participants in this important conference. I want to commend Ms. Mahaffey's leadership in this historic forum, where women of every economic and political stature joined to focus world attention on issues that matter most in the lives of women and their families.

Regrettably, I was unable to participate in the Beijing conference, but I have every confidence that the city of Detroit, where my congressional district is located, and the State of Michigan, were very ably represented with Ms. Mahaffey's superior leadership.

I want to also commend the extraordinary contribution of our First Lady, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, without whom the conference would have been tragically incomplete.

To Mrs. Clinton: Our Nation and our world are better indeed for the enormous attention and unquestionable commitment that you have brought to such basic issues as health care, child care, better access to credit, and educational and business opportunities for women of all nationalities. Your quiet dignity and genuine concern serve as an inspiration to women of every community and every background, and thanks to your very personal efforts, women are being elevated around the world to first-class citizenship.

I applaud the noble commitment of these two exceptional women, and their capacity to elevate the plight of women to such grand proportions.

CHIEF MINISTER BEANT SINGH—IN MEMORIAL

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the brutal assassination of Chief Minister Beant Singh of Punjab, India. Sikh terrorists assassinated Mr. Singh and 15 of his security officers on August 31, 1995.

This ghastly act of violence was a very sad day for the people of Punjab. Mr. Singh worked tirelessly during his 2-year tenure to bring the rule of law back to the beleaguered Punjabi province.

Political figures from across the Indian political spectrum have rallied together to condemn this terrorist act. We in the U.S. Congress must do the same.

We are all aware of the reports of the Members who lend credence to the so-called Council of Khalistan. It is intolerable for U.S. politicians to support Sikh militancy for the sake of domestic politics.

Mr. Singh was not a man of violence. He was, in fact, responsible for the decreased level of tension in Punjab over the last few years. A great leader and a great statesman, Beant Singh was responsible for many social programs designed to ameliorate the quality of life of his constituents.

During his term as Chief Minister, some of India's largest companies injected more than 250 billion rupees into Punjab. Mr. Singh's social program agenda was no less industrious. He established scholarships for needy students, increased benefits for the elderly, and constructed a better quality of housing throughout the entire region. Sikhs and Hindus alike in Punjab will suffer equally from the assassination of this fine man.

Mr. Singh's loss will set back prospects for peace in Punjab considerably. We can only hope that our colleagues will recognize that the security problem in Punjab is real. The threat from Sikh militants is great, and peace will never be achieved through assassination and violence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 13, my votes were not recorded for

rollcall votes 658 and 659. Had my votes been recorded, I would have voted "aye" in both instances.

BIRTH OF REANNA JEAN MATYAS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues the birth of a baby. Reanna Jean Matyas was born to Richard and Doreen Matyas, who reside in Oak Lawn, IL.

Reanna Jean Matyas was born at 11:39 p.m. on July 1, 1995. On an occasion such as this, I join with the members of the Matyas family in wishing the newborn all the best for the promising future ahead of her.

I am sure that my colleagues join me in congratulating the proud parents, Richard and Doreen, on this most joyous occasion. With their newborn baby, their life together will no doubt continue to be an adventure. May this blessed addition to their lives bring them much happiness in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE MIDDLETOWN, NJ, POST 2179, VFW & LADIES AUXILIARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 15, 1995, the Middletown, NJ, Post 2179 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary will hold its 13th annual candlelight service in memory of America's prisoners of wars and missing in action.

Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of the American people believe that we must never forget our servicemen and women whose whereabouts remain unknown or unaccounted for. While our hearts go out to families whose loved ones have died in the service of our country, the families of POW's and MIA's do not even have the consolation of having said goodbye to their loved ones. These families live in anxiety and dread. We cannot even imagine what horrors the POW's and MIA's have endured—and, in some cases, may still be enduring.

Our Nation has now reopened diplomatic and economic relations with Vietnam. This decision caused pain for many veterans of the Vietnam war and their families. I disagreed with this decision, but now it is time for us to use our new relationship with Vietnam to force a resolution of the POW/MIA question. Our diplomats must never let up or let their Vietnamese counterparts off the hook until we get a full accounting of the fate of those Americans who served in Vietnam and whose fate remains unresolved. There is compelling evidence that at least 80, and possibly many more Americans could have been left behind in 1973 when their comrades in arms—supposedly all of our prisoners—came home.

The same holds true for Russia and other nations with which we now have expanded relations since the end of the cold war. There

are indications that American prisoners from Vietnam and Korea were kept in the Soviet Union. Some of these cases have finally been resolved, but there is a great deal more work to do. Since Russia clearly needs our help and support, we should insist on getting something back from them. We also need to keep the pressure on our own Government to make sure that all relevant documentation is made available to families and others concerned with the fate of the prisoners and the missing.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Middletown VFW and Ladies Auxiliary, like their counterparts across the country, provide a great public service by fighting to keep alive the memory of their missing comrades. Their loyalty to the prisoners and the missing provides an example for all of us to remember. Every Memorial Day, the Nation pauses to remember those who paid the ultimate price in the service of their country. We should do the same for the POW's and MIA's until we have a full accounting for their fate.

A TRANSCRIPT OF THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST PROCEEDINGS

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the 43d annual National Prayer Breakfast was held here in our Nation's Capital. This gathering is hosted each year by Members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives and their respective prayer breakfast groups.

We were honored once again with the participation of our President and Mrs. Clinton and our Vice President and Mrs. Gore. Also joining us were individuals from literally all walks of life—representing all 50 States and over 140 countries.

Our Congressional Committee, which plans the breakfast, was chaired by the Honorable H. Martin Lancaster, who faithfully served here in the House for many years. On his behalf and in behalf of the Congressional Committee for the National Prayer Breakfast, I request that a copy of the program and of the transcript of the breakfast proceedings be printed in the RECORD at this time, so that all Americans can be encouraged by the proceedings that took place that morning.

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

CHAIRMAN: THE HONORABLE H. MARTIN LANCASTER

Pre-Breakfast Prayer—General Carl E. Mundy, Jr., *Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps*

Opening Song—Mount Olive College Concert Choir and Mount Olive College Singers

Opening Prayer—The Vice President of the United States

BREAKFAST

Welcome—The Honorable H. Martin Lancaster

Remarks—U.S. House of Representatives—The Honorable Tillie Fowler, *U.S. Representative, Florida*

Old Testament Reading—The Honorable Ruth Ginsburg, *Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court*

Remarks—U.S. Senate—The Honorable Robert Bennett, *U.S. Senator, Utah*